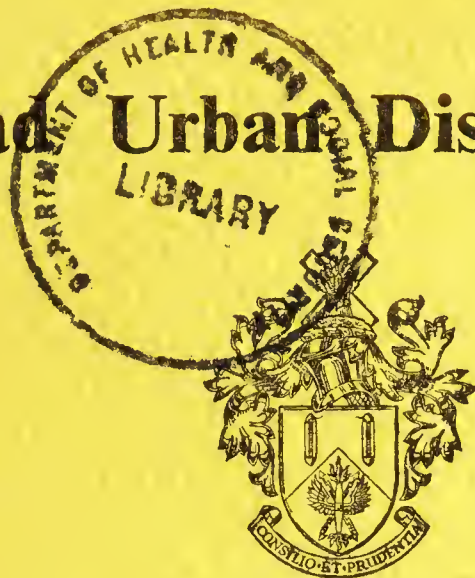


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Halstead Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1972

OF THE

Medical Officer

OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC

Health Officer

ENVIRONMENT AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health Officer
HAROLD NIELD
B.E.M., F.A.P.H.I., F.I.P.H.E.
Incorporated Public Health Engineer
Also Public Health Officer, Halstead Rural District Council

Deputy Public Health Officer BRIAN A. J. TURNER
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

District Public Health Inspectors JOHN R. TANSWELL
M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.
(to 23.8.72)
DERRICK AMBROSE
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
(to 17.3.72)
JOHN P. ROOD
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
(from 16.5.72)
STEPHEN R. CRAWFORD
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
(from 20.11.72)

Technical Assistant SYDNEY B. SAWARD
M.R.I.P.H.H.

Chief Clerk MICHAEL A. FAULDER

Clerical Assistant Mrs. JEAN G. GAYWOOD

General Clerical Assistant Mrs. SHEELAGH M. DIXON
(from 24.4.72)

Clerk Typist Miss JANE E. COOK

Part-time Rodent Operators FRANK ANDREWS
DAVID STEDMAN

Also Part-time Rodent Operators
Halstead Rural District Council
Braintree Urban District Council
Braintree Rural District Council &
Witham Urban District Council

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

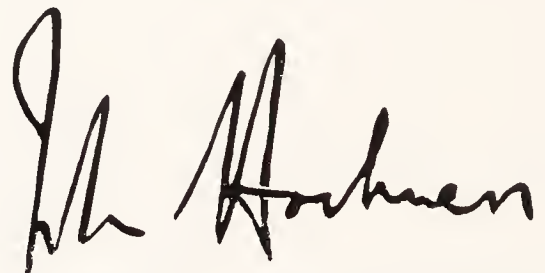
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for 1972.

The Report is prepared in the form prescribed by the Department of Health and Social Security and consequently tends to consist of figures and tables, which enable comparisons and trends to be readily deduced from district to district. As far as it is possible to do this locally, members will see that the population continues to grow, and this is reflected in the higher than national birth rate.

The main causes of death were again malignant disease, cerebrovascular disease and ischaemic heart disease.

There were only three cases of measles notified and the only other case of infectious disease was one of pulmonary tuberculosis, which was a re-notification which had originally been notified thirty years ago.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Ashman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'J. H.' being more compact and the last name 'Ashman' being more extended.

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report, the 14th, on the environmental health services provided by your Public Health Inspectors during 1972 under the subject headings of:

1. Food Inspection and Food Hygiene.
2. Air Pollution Control.
3. Offices, Shops, etc. – Health, Safety and Welfare Working Conditions.
4. Housing – Repair, Improvement and Demolition, Improvement Areas and Grants, Slum Clearance, Caravans and Camping.
5. Noise Control.
6. Pests Control.
7. Waste Matters – Sewerage, Drainage, Refuse Collection and Disposal.
8. Water Supplies.
9. Miscellaneous.

As in previous years it is primarily a statistical record of your Public Health Inspectors' work to maintain and improve environmental health standards. We are concerned to secure compliance by the public with law designed to protect the health of the community, and such compliance is secured by advice, persuasion and education, rather than by enforcement by process of law, which is the ultimate remedy.

1972 was a year of tremendous activity in preparation for local government reorganisation in 1974 and efforts have been directed to ensuring that there will be strong and comprehensive environmental health departments. It is vitally important that the new Braintree District Council should regard environmental health as a single concept with one co-ordinated department charged with the oversight of all those aspects of the environment which are of significance to health in its widest and most positive sense.

Once again I am glad to be able to record how the preventive and protective day to day environmental health work of the Department has been encouraged by the continued interest, support and confidence of the Chairman and Members of the Environment and Town Planning Committee and Council. I am grateful, too, for the willing, loyal and effective assistance of my staff, and also to colleagues in other Council Departments for their courteous, and helpful co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Health Officer

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	1,232
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	7,810
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1972) according to the Rate Books	3,194
Rateable Value	£308,304
Sum represented by a 1p rate	£2,773

Live Births:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	133	70	63
Illegitimate	6	2	4
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population .. .. .	..	..	17·8
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor of 0·97) .. .. .	..	..	17·3
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) .. .. .	..	..	14·8

Still Births:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. .	..	..	7
Total births (live and still) .. .. .	..	..	140

Infant and Maternal Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	7
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births	8
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	—
Neo-natal mortality rate (first four weeks)	
per 1,000 live births	7
Early neo-natal mortality rate (first week)	
per 1,000 live births	7
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and first week)	
per 1,000 live and still births	14
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	—

Deaths:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Deaths	122	61	61
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population .. .. .	..	..	15·6
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor of 0·93) .. .. .	..	..	14·5
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) .. .. .	..	..	12·1

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1972

Disease	Male	Female
Infective and parasitic diseases	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2
Other malignant neoplasms	4	2
Diabetes mellitus	1	2
Anaemias	1	0
Mental disorders	1	1
Other diseases of the nervous system	0	2
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	0	1
Hypertensive disease	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	23	9
Other forms of heart disease	1	2
Cerebrovascular disease	4	18
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	4
Pneumonia	4	2
Bronchitis and emphysema	3	0
Asthma	0	1
Appendicitis	0	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	0
Cirrhosis of liver	1	0
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	0
Congenital anomalies	1	0
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	0
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
All other accidents	0	3
All other external causes	1	0
Totals ..	61	61

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	0
Infectious Hepatitis	0	0	0
Measles	3	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	1	1	0
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Totals ..	4	1	0

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases notified: 1

Transfer from other Districts: 1

Deaths from Tuberculosis: 0

1. FOOD INSPECTION AND FOOD HYGIENE

Food supplies control and food hygiene work generally formed an appreciable proportion of your Public Health Inspectors' duties. During the last 20 years, with the aid of increasingly more stringent legislation, it has been possible to ensure the improvement of most food premises up to a reasonable standard. It is hoped that in the future more attention can be given to ensuring that food handlers are aware of their responsibilities and carry out their work hygienically, not because the law says they must, but because it is second nature to do so, and they know why they are doing so. In this connection the general public can be of great assistance by reporting unhygienic practices to the management, by refusing to be served by the assistant who is constantly licking his fingers, touching his nose or brushing his hair, and most important of all by also referring such instances to the Public Health Inspector.

Much has been said and done in the field of date stamping of food stocks, but although the trade is beginning to accept the principle, the shop keeper has been slow to follow suit. It is essential for the ultimate retailer to ensure that his stocks of food are properly rotated and that the risk of food poisoning, one of the diseases of man which has not decreased in incidence in recent years, can be prevented. Again success in this field of food supply control calls for an awareness of the basic facts of hygiene which can only be achieved by education, and by the housewife refusing to accept lower standards, and not being afraid to complain.

There is a need for legislation to enforce immediate closure of food premises where there is gross neglect of basic standards of food hygiene.

(a) Food, Food Hygiene and Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by Public Health Inspectors of the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections	Having wash hand basin with hot and cold water (Reg. 16)	Having sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)	Required to have sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)
Bakehouses	2	0	2	2	2
Bread and Confectioners	2	3	2	2	2
Bread Distribution Depots	0	0	0	0	0
Dairies and Milk Distributors ..	10	3	9	10	10
Egg Packing and Liquid Egg Preparation Premises	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Shops and Fish Fryers	3	3	3	3	3
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	1	1	1	1	1
General Provisions Shops	17	21	15	17	17
Greengrocers	3	5	3	3	3
Ice Cream Premises (Registered) ..	20	3	18	20	0
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	5	0	5	5	5
Meat Shops	10	7	10	10	10
Poultry Processing Premises	0	0	0	0	0
Public Houses and Inns	18	2	7	18	18
Restaurants and Cafes	8	16	8	8	8
School Kitchens	5	2	5	5	5
Slaughterhouses	1	93	1	1	1
Social Clubs	3	0	3	3	3
Street Vendors	—	201	—	—	—
Sweet Confectioners	4	1	4	4	4
Works Canteens	4	0	4	4	4
Miscellaneous	8	7	7	7	4
Totals ..	124	368	107	123	100

Food premises fully surveyed	..	..	..	..	5
Food poisoning investigations	..	..	..	..	0
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	6
Food premises improved	..	..	..	..	2
Food vehicles improved	..	..	..	..	0

No Clean Food Guilds were inaugurated or existed during the year.

The co-operation of food traders in improving the hygienic handling and storage of food was appreciated, but further improvements are desirable and progress is very dependent upon public opinion.

(b) Food Premises Improvements

Type of Food Premises	Structural Works	Decorations and Cleaning	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities		Food Storage Facilities	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation	Name and Address Displayed	Wash Hand Notices Displayed	Totals
						Wash-hand Basins	Sinks							
Restaurants and Cafes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Slaughterhouses ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2

(c) Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

One slaughterhouse was licensed by the Council and used by a local butcher during the year. Slaughtering was carried out on three days per week. This regular slaughtering of animals at fixed times on fixed days was approved by the Council.

All animals slaughtered in the District were inspected in accordance with statutory requirements for fitness of the meat and offal for human consumption and, if passed, officially stamped before leaving the slaughterhouse. In addition to being responsible for meat inspection in slaughterhouses Public Health Inspectors also ensured that proper standards of hygiene were maintained and that animals were handled humanely.

No specimens were submitted to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for examination.

Charges for meat inspection of 18p per bovine animal, 5p per calf or pig, and 4p per sheep, lamb or goat were made during the year.

Details of meat inspection carried out by Public Health Inspectors at the slaughterhouse are given in the following table:—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	164	0	0	386	294	0
Number Inspected	164	0	0	386	294	0
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
(a) Whole carcase condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	16	0	0	0	1	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9.7	0	0	0	0.34	0
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
(a) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Generalised and totally con- demned	0	0	0	0	0	0

Licensed Slaughtermen: 7

(d) Poultry Inspection at Poultry Processing Premises

There were no Poultry Processing premises within the District.

(e) Milk and Dairies

The Council remained responsible for the registration of dairies other than dairy farms and of distributors, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the supervision of dairy farms. Dealers' licenses were granted by the Essex County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, and permitted sales outside as well as inside the area of the licensing authority.

Three samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and found to be satisfactory. Sampling for biological examination for tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus was carried out by the Essex County Council. No herds with brucella abortus infection were notified by the County Council and no samples for brucella abortus were taken by your Public Health Inspectors.

Twelve inspections were made during the year of the four registered dairy premises and seven registered distributors.

(f) Liquid Egg Processing Premises

There were no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the District, and no samples of liquid egg were submitted for the prescribed test.

(g) Ice Cream

There were no premises in the District registered for the manufacture of ice cream, but 20 premises were registered for the sale only of pre-packed ice cream.

Details of samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination are given in the following table:—

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	6	Excellent	0
II	2	V. Satisfactory	0
III	0	Satisfactory	8
IV	0	Fair	0
		Unsatisfactory	0
	Total 8		Total 8

<i>Bacteriological Classification</i>	<i>No. of Ice Lolly Samples</i>
Satisfactory	1

(h) General

Five complaints were received during the year regarding unfit food, food handlers' unhygienic practices or uncleanly food premises, as follows:—

Food	Complaint
Bread (2) Chicken Tinned Fish Tinned Fruit	Foreign Matter Unpleasant appearance Decomposed Foreign Matter

It is pleasing to note the continuing number of complaints. Detailed investigations were made and appropriate informal action was taken. Bearing in mind the quantities of food sold during the year, this still reflects a reticence on the part of the public to make official complaints.

No prosecutions regarding food or food premises were instituted during the year.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice cream, etc.

In the past few years there has been a considerable change in the eating habits of the community. Many more people own deep freezers and buy their food in bulk, but more significantly many people eat out, either regularly or on an 'occasion', and to cater for this change many public houses are now providing dining rooms. Unfortunately, although the decor is well planned, the kitchen often is not. Your Public Health Inspectors, however, scrutinise plans for these alterations and are often able to ensure that not only are minimum standards achieved, but by personal approach and persuasion are able to ensure that food is prepared and served in the most hygienic circumstances.

(i) Unsound Food

It was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food. The following commodities were voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	141 lbs.
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 lbs.
Tinned Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 lbs.
Other Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 lbs.
Frozen Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	892 lbs.
Total ..								<u>1035 lbs.</u>

This condemned food was stained and disposed of either by burial in deep refuse pits or by sterilisation at licensed Waste Food Boiling Premises.

No special examinations of whole stocks or consignments of food were necessary during the year.

(j) Imported Food Regulations 1968

The following quantities of Imported Foods were examined at a warehouse in the district, such foods having been released from the port of entry in unopened containers:—

Port of Arrival	Quantity	Nature of Food
Manchester	180 Bags	Split Peas

(k) Markets

The market, held two days a week, included a number of food traders' stalls, and regular routine visits were made to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations.

2. AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

Air pollution, an environmental health condition of major importance, was not a matter subject to serious local complaint, and pressure of other work did not permit the time and effort warranted to be devoted to this duty.

The Council continued to make and record daily volumetric measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere, and the results were forwarded monthly to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Some hold the view that the work of Public Health Inspectors in the field of air pollution control, may be reduced in future years due to the likely completion of domestic smoke control, probably within the next decade, and the fact that control of industrial dark smoke within the existing legislation has to a large extent been achieved. This fails to recognise the need for progressive improvement in standards. On this basis, an increasing workload is envisaged involving the continued reappraisal of improving technology in relation to the interpretation of "practicable" as defined in the legislation. Further, the restructuring of local government into larger district councils should provide an opportunity for the environmental health department to contain within their ranks more specialised officers in this field, and every effort should be made to develop a better understanding and closer co-operation between the Alkali and Clean Air Inspectorate and the environmental health departments.

(a) New Furnace and Chimney Installations

(1)	Notices submitted with plans and specifications of proposals to install furnaces and chimneys to which the Clean Air Act applies. .	0
(2)	Approvals granted of such plans and specifications for the purposes of the Clean Air Act	0

Legislation requiring the prior approval of the installation of furnaces, and regulating the height of chimneys, is an effective method of controlling atmospheric pollution from new industrial or business premises, and also ensures that ground level pollution is kept to a minimum from these sources. It is well known, however, that domestic smoke is the prime culprit, being discharged at low level with both low temperature and low velocity, so ensuring that most of it reaches ground level quickly, thus polluting air at breathing level with adverse well known effects.

(b) Air Pollution Nuisances

(1)	Investigations	11
(2)	Confirmed	2
(3)	Abated	1

An increase in the number of investigations of air pollution nuisances continues to reflect the public awareness of environmental pollution, particularly from the burning of waste in such quantities as constitutes a real problem and nuisance. The co-operation of the public in bringing these offences to your Public Health Inspectors is appreciated. A free service for the collection of waste is in operation and should be more widely used.

The 'burning off' of straw in the fields after harvest has increased greatly in the last few years but it is hoped that in view of the reaction of the public to the palls of smoke and drift of sooty particles that farmers will realize the inconvenience caused and comply with advice given nationally on the matter.

No smoke control areas were declared by the Council or confirmed by the Minister during the year.

3. OFFICES, SHOPS, ETC.

The control of the health and welfare aspects of working conditions by Public Health Inspectors under the provisions of Factories Acts, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, etc., has continued to receive increasing attention in recent years and the following statistical details show continued improvement.

The Report of a Government Committee under the chairmanship of Lord Robens published this year proposes various reforms, including the drafting of a single new Act covering virtually the whole of Britain's 24 million working population. The new Act should include provisions for the safety of members of the public whilst in premises covered by the Act, as well as safety of employees, which is of particular importance in places such as Department Stores where customers and staff are so inextricably mixed.

(a) Factories

(1) Inspections and Notices

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	7	2	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	13	0	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	0	0	0	0
Totals	54	15	0	0

(2) Defects Found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	0	0	0	0	0
(a) Insufficient ..	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ..	0	0	0	0	0

(3) Outworkers

Nature of Outwork	Section 133			Section 134			Inspections
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

(b) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

During the year 10 new premises were registered, and all received a general inspection. Five informal notices were served in respect of contraventions found and 6 informal notices were complied with.

Two non-fatal accidents were reported involving a fall from a ladder by an employee carrying out routine inspection work at an office and a yard gate blown by the wind injuring an employee also at an office.

Investigation of accidents in the past, aimed at finding the causes and suggesting preventive measures has often brought to light a lack of knowledge of elementary first aid in both management and employees. It is felt that an appropriate amount of time should be spent by all persons responsible for first aid to be adequately and properly taught, at least, the elementary principles of the subject.

No applications were received for exemption from the provisions relating to room space for employees, temperature, sanitary conveniences and running water supply to washing facilities.

The following tables give details of:—

- (1) Premises registered and inspections.
- (2) Contraventions.
- (3) Improvements following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.

TABLE 1 PREMISES REGISTERED AND INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Premises registered during year	Registered premises at end of year	Registered premises general inspection	Total visits of all kinds	Persons Employed			
					Male		Female	
					Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.	Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.
Offices	7	38	21	46	4	74	9	129
Retail Shops	1	59	29	76	7	75	12	128
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ..	0	6	2	13	0	27	0	1
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens ..	2	5	2	6	0	7	1	14
Fuel Storage Depots ..	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	0
Totals ..	10	109	54	144	11	185	22	272

TABLE 2 CONTRAVENTIONS

Premises	Information	Cleanliness and Decorations	Overcrowding	Temperature	Ventilation	Lighting	Sanitary Conveniences	Washing Facilities	Drinking Water	Clothing	Sitting Facilities	Eating Facilities	Floors and Stairs	Dangerous Machinery	Young Persons	Supervision	Health and Safety	Noise	Heavy Work	First Aid	Miscellaneous	Totals
	Offices	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	13
	Retail Shops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Warehouses and Wholesale Shops ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Catering Establishments ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fuel Storage Depots ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ..		0	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	14

TABLE 3 IMPROVEMENTS

	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8
Offices	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8
Retail Shops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warehouses and Wholesale Shops ..	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Catering Establishments ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fuel Storage Depots ..	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Totals ..	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	19	

(c) Miscellaneous

Premises	No. in District	Inspections
Places of Entertainment	18	0
Schools	7	2

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops)	0
Certificates of Exemption (shops) in operation	0

It is sometimes difficult to decide whether clearance or improvement is the appropriate way of dealing with an area of unfit houses and careful judgment is needed. Wherever it is feasible houses should be preserved but there are areas where housing is so intermixed with industry or where space limitations physically prevent improvement which can only be dealt with by clearance. There is a need for environmental matters to be included in the unfitness standard. A date should also be fixed for the future raising of the unfitness standard so as to overcome the present situation in that houses lacking amenities which are now accepted as essential for modern living have to be regarded, in a legal sense, as being fit.

(a) Housing Inspections

(1) Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	..	..	75
(2) Houses fully surveyed and recorded	..	..	41
(3) Inspections regarding reconditioning	..	..	37
(4) Inspections regarding overcrowding	..	..	0
(5) Inspections regarding Qualification Certificates	..	..	5
(6) Inspections of moveable dwellings	..	..	0
(7) Miscellaneous housing inspections	..	..	178
(8) Investigations of applications for Council house tenancies	..	..	0

(b) Housing Notices

(1) Informal Notices served regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	6
(2) Statutory Notices served under Housing Act regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	0
(3) Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	0

(c) Unfit Houses

(1) Houses officially reported Unfit to Council under Housing Act ..	10
(2) (a) Undertakings accepted (i) to make fit for human habitation ..	0
(ii) not to use for human habitation ..	0
(b) Undertakings cancelled	0
(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec. 1972)	
(i) to make fit for human habitation..	0
(ii) not to use for human habitation..	2
(3) (a) Closing Orders made	0
(b) Closing Orders determined	1
(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Closing Orders (Dec. 1972)	7
(4) (a) Demolition Orders made	10
(b) Demolition Orders revoked	2
(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (Dec. 1972)	26
(5) (a) Houses made subject to Compulsory Purchase Orders.. ..	0
(b) Accumulated total of houses subject to outstanding Compulsory Purchase Orders (Dec. 1972)	0

(d) **Slum Clearance Proposals**

Details of the Council's Slum Clearance Proposals are given in the following tables which show:—

- (1) the approved proposals,
- (2) the year-by-year progress made,
- (3) the position at 31st December, 1972,
- (4) unfit houses—occupied and vacant showing Statutory Unfitness Orders thereon,
- (5) length of occupation of houses subject to Statutory Unfitness Orders.

(1)

Year	Total Houses in District Unfit for Human Habitation
1956	132
1966	103
	(Including 58 from previous proposals)
1971	59
	(Including 29 from previous proposals)

(2)

Year	Houses Reported Unfit	Undertakings Accepted	Closing Orders Made	Demolition Orders Made	Houses Made Subject to Clearance Orders	Houses Made Subject to Compulsory Purchase Orders	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished
1956	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
1957	36	13	16	10	0	0	0	3
1958	4	2	0	1	0	0	1	11
1959	23	0	0	4	18	0	6	16
1960	46	0	5	2	0	0	2	7
1961	22	0	2	16	0	0	1	16
1962	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	7
1963	5	0	4	5	0	24	0	4
1964	2	0	1	9	0	0	0	15
1965	7	0	0	0	0	8	2	9
1966	8	0	1	9	0	0	0	22
1967	6	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
1968	8	0	1	11	0	0	2	19
1969	16	1	1	9	0	0	0	7
1970	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9
1971	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
1972	10	0	0	10	0	0	3	0
Totals	205	17	34	94	18	32	18	160

(3)

Unfit Houses Reported to Council and made subject to							Unfit Houses awaiting Report to Council
Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Clearance Orders	Compulsory Purchase Orders	Action Pending		
					Deferred by Council	Other	
2	7	26	0	0	0	1	20
1	4	7	0	0	Total Houses Occupied 12		

(4)

	Occupied Houses Subject to				Vacant Houses Subject to				Total Houses	
	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	Occupied	Vacant
Totals	1	4	7	0	1	3	19	1	12	24
Total Houses Owner Occupied	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0

(5) Houses subject to Statutory Unfitness Orders have continued to be occupied as detailed in the following table. The securing of early rehousing of families living in unfit dwellings, and the reconditioning or demolition of these houses, is a problem which should be overcome with the very minimum further delay.

Years of Continued Occupation	Number of houses subject to		
	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders
1	0	0	5
2	0	0	0
3	0	0	0
4	0	1	0
5	0	0	2
6	0	1	0
9	0	2	0
15	1	0	0
Totals	1	4	7

(e) Housing Improvements

The Council have not declared any areas to be "General Improvement Areas". No sizeable areas appropriate for larger scale environmental improvement as general improvement areas have been considered or are reasonably obviously apparent.

General improvement areas are predominantly residential areas within the District, in which the living conditions in the area ought to be improved by the improvement of the amenities of the area or of the sound dwellings therein, or both, and by clearing away any dwellings that are beyond repair. Government grants are available for modernising such areas with such projects as creating play spaces and walkways, providing off the street car parking for residents and stopping through traffic from using the area as a short cut, laying out grassy spaces with flowerbeds and seats, planting trees and installing new street lighting, and private householders in the area are encouraged to take advantage of improvement grants towards the cost of modernising their own homes.

There are no upper or lower limits to size of general improvement areas but the conception of environmental improvement implies that normally something a good deal more than a group of a dozen or a score of houses will be involved. Boundaries suggested by physical features, land uses or the character of areas will often determine the matter.

(1) Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by Public Health Inspectors	6
(2) Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Points Standard" ..	12
(3) Houses repaired following Statutory Housing Act Notices ..	0
(4) Houses repaired following Statutory Public Health Act Notices ..	1
(5) Houses reconditioned following Statutory Housing Act Orders ..	3
(6) Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Housing Act	0
(7) Houses in Clearance Areas demolished	0

(f) Housing Improvement Grants

(1) Applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants	16
(2) Discretionary Improvement Grants approved	14
(3) Schemes completed	5

Details regarding Discretionary Improvement Grants are given in the following table:—

Year	Applications			Completions	
	Received	Approved	Grant Approved	No.	Grant Paid
1949 to					
1954	0	0	—	0	—
1955	14	7	£1,231·64	6	£1,036·615
1956	0	0	—	1	£195·025
1957	0	0	—	0	—
1958	0	0	—	0	—
1959	5	5	£689·00	2	£240·00
1960	9	9	£1,649·00	5	£759·00
1961	4	4	£832·00	6	£1,171·00
1962	3	3	£620·00	4	£649·00
1963	4	4	£852·00	5	£1,072·00
1964	2	2	£360·00	1	£175·00
1965	4	4	£825·00	2	£403·00
1966	1	1	£214·00	5	£1,039·00
1967	2	2	£346·00	0	—
1968	6	6	£1,024·00	5	£841·00
1969	5	5	£2,043·00	4	£766·00
1970	5	5	£1,632·00	4	£1,604·00
1971	8	8	£4,846·00	3	£1,057·00
1972	16	14	£10,135·00	5	£3,159·00
Totals	88	79	£27,298·64	58	£14,166·64

(4) Applications for Standard Improvement Grants	..	..	..	10
(5) Standard Improvement Grants approved	..	..	..	10
(6) Schemes completed	..	..	..	7

Details regarding Standard Improvement Grants are given in the following table:—

Year	Applications			Completions		
	Received	Approved	Maximum Grant Approved	No.	Amount of Standard Grant	
					Maximum Approved	Actual Paid
1959	5	5	£570	0	—	—
1960	11	11	£1,370	9	£1,050	£693·83
1961	10	10	£1,065	15	£1,765	£1,254·06
1962	10	10	£1,520	4	£610	£478·17
1963	6	6	£910	5	£675	£604·83
1964	8	8	£1,190	6	£880	£698·46
1965	12	12	£1,660	6	£910	£727·67
1966	7	7	£980	11	£1,560	£1,350·31
1967	9	9	£1,155	10	£1,230	£1,164·40
1968	12	12	£1,742	8	£1,160	£1,103·40
1969	7	7	£1,115	4	£540	£490·11
1970	16	16	£2,460	11	£1,652	£1,394·18
1971	6	6	£1,020	12	£1,885	£1,790·72
1972	10	10	£1,982	7	£1,345	£1,318·00
Totals	129	129	£18,739	108	£15,262	£13,068·14

(7) Houses subject to Grants were occupied as follows:—

Year	Discretionary Improvement Grants			Standard Improvement Grants		
	Owner	Tenant	Total	Owner	Tenant	Total
1949 to						
1954	0	0	0			
1955	3	4	7			
1956	0	0	0			
1957	0	0	0			
1958	0	0	0			
1959	3	2	5	4	1	5
1960	1	8	9	9	2	11
1961	4	0	4	9	1	10
1962	2	1	3	8	2	10
1963	1	3	4	4	2	6
1964	1	1	2	7	1	8
1965	0	4	4	6	6	12
1966	0	1	1	4	3	7
1967	0	2	2	4	5	9
1968	1	5	6	7	5	12
1969	1	4	5	7	0	7
1970	2	3	5	11	5	16
1971	5	3	8	4	2	6
1972	11	3	14	8	2	10
Totals	35	44	79	92	37	129

(g) Loans for Repairing or Improving Houses

(8) Applications for Repair/Improvement Loans	..	..	..	0
(9) Repair/Improvement Loans approved	..	..	..	0

(h) Rent of Dwellings—Qualification Certificates

The increasing of rents subject to certain repairs and improvements being carried out is a matter for liaison between the Public Health Department and the Rents Officer. The issue of Qualification Certificates is work which requires a great deal of care and judgment on the part of Public Health Inspectors to provide for reasonable consistency and to see that property is in a satisfactory condition before certificates are granted.

(1) Applications for Qualification Certificates (where standard amenities lacking)	2
(2) Certificates of Provisional Approval issued	2
(3) Qualification Certificates issued (where standard amenities lacking) ..	2
(4) Applications for Qualification Certificates (where standard amenities already provided)	1
(5) Qualification Certificates issued (where standard amenities already provided)	4

(i) Housing Overcrowding

(1) Overcrowded houses existing December, 1971	0
(2) Overcrowded houses found during 1972	0
(3) Overcrowded houses relieved during 1972	0
(4) Overcrowded houses existing December 1972	0
(5) Informal notices served regarding abatement of overcrowding ..	0

(j) Caravan Sites

There were two individual caravan site licences in force in the District.

No Local Authority caravan sites have been provided in the District.

(k) Miscellaneous Housing Matters

During the year 85 houses were built by private enterprise and 13 houses and 53 flatlets were built by the Council. Thirty-six existing Council houses were improved to present day standards of amenity by the provision of bathrooms, hot water supplies, etc.

No houses were sold by the Council to tenants.

Houses owned by the Council at the end of the year were:—(from information supplied by the Council's Housing Officer)

Pre-war. Houses	342
Post-war. Houses and Bungalows	485
Flats and Flatlets	324

(1 block of 26, 1 block of 21, 1 block of 18, 5 blocks of 12, 10 blocks of 8, 2 blocks of 7, 7 blocks of 6, 15 blocks of 4, 1 block of 2, 1 flat over shop).

There were no registered Common Lodging Houses nor unsatisfactory Houses in Multiple Occupation in the District.

5. NOISE CONTROL

There is an increasing public awareness that noise, which has been described as the wrong sound in the wrong place at the wrong time, is another form of environmental pollution. Noise levels are becoming intolerable, and unnecessary noise is a menace to modern living. Considerable efforts are being directed towards the control of this social nuisance, but the abatement of noise is frequently a complicated science necessitating the taking of many detailed measurements and is especially difficult when so many factors must be considered. What is acceptable to one person or group is unpleasant to others. Available evidence suggests that noise is considered much more annoying when intruding into the house than when encountered outdoors or at work.

Continuing public reaction to noise, whether at work, in the highway or intruding into the house and garden, is a sign that the community is no longer prepared to accept the increasing clamour inflicted upon the environment.

Although few complaints are made your Public Health Inspector is always conscious of the ever-present noise problem and takes steps to ensure the co-operation of employers to ensure that certain processes are carried out with the minimum of nuisance.

Although the Council may take formal action under the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960 and part III of the Public Health Act, 1936 the cumbersome and lengthy procedure is often difficult to enforce.

Noise Nuisances

(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

6. PESTS CONTROL

Pest control, a routine environmental health duty which may easily be overlooked, although it has been given more prominence nationally recently, and the very wide variety of pests which it is necessary for your Public Health Inspectors to identify, advise upon regarding disinfestation measures, and supply appropriate rodenticides, pesticides and insecticides, etc., are detailed.

The Council's free disinfestation services have resulted in early notification of infestations and the consequent early disinfestation work has prevented the previous more serious and widespread infestations.

(a) Insect Pests

The District continued to be comparatively free from insect pest infestation. Two premises were found with bed bug infestation. Fifteen inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors regarding insect pests, and 23 premises were disinfested. Supplies of pesticides, insecticides, etc., were also issued free to private householders. Pests dealt with included ants, beetles, fleas, flies, wasps, etc. The Black Garden Ant (*Lasius niger*) was a constant source of nuisance due to its intrusion into houses when foraging for food supplies. Eggs are normally laid in the spring, the female having found a suitable location under a stone or concrete paving. The eggs hatch after some 22–28 days and worker ants emerge. Their swarming flight is a common sight on hot sunny afternoons of July and August. It is their search for food which brings the ants into the house, usually through very small cracks or holes in the brickwork and if a ready source of food e.g. sugar, syrup or other sweetstuffs is found large numbers form a steady stream to and from the nest. Control by insecticidal powder is usually quite effective, but particular care to sweep up spilled sugar, and the coverings of sweet foods will reduce the risks of infestation. No major insect pest infestation occurred at the Council's refuse dump, but it was dusted with insecticidal powder as a routine measure.

A free service for the destruction of wasps' nests at the discretion of the Public Health Officer continued.

(b) Rodent Control

The Council operated a rat and mouse disinfestation service for occupiers of business premises on a basis of repayment of the cost of time, transport and materials, and for occupiers of domestic premises a free service at the discretion of the Public Health Officer. Poison bait was also issued free to private householders.

There was no unduly high incidence of rat and mouse infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers, sewage disposal works, refuse dump, etc., were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors and part-time Rodent Operator during the year were:—

No.	Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in District ..	3,792	10
2a.	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	99	0
2b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	72	0
	(ii) Mice	27	0
3a.	Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	668	2
3b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	3	0
	(ii) Mice	1	0
Sewers			
4.	No sewers were found to be infested by rats during the year.		

The Council's rodent control service treated 80 infestations, 58 rats and 22 mice at non-agricultural premises, and 1 rat and 1 mouse infestation at Council premises, sewerage works, refuse dump, etc.

Three informal notices were served in respect of rat infestations. Three non-agricultural premises were rat disinfested by private persons or contractors following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.

No "Block Control" schemes were carried out.

There was no evidence of Warfarin-resistant rats in the District during the year.

(c) Miscellaneous Pests.

Advice was given in response to enquiries regarding infestations of bats, squirrels, pigeons, etc.

7. WASTE MATTERS

(a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor. A modified scheme for the provision of a new length of surface water sewer from Kings Road/Parsonage Street corner was completed during the year. Proposals for extension of the Council's Sewage Disposal Works are being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers.

No inspections were made by your Public Health Inspector of public sewers following complaints.

(b) Drainage

(1) Drainage investigations and advisory visits	..	..	..	..	0
(2) Drainage inspections	..	..	..	..	27
(3) Inspections of ditches, water courses, etc.	..	..	..	..	2
(4) Drainage tests	..	..	..	..	0
(5) Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	3
(6) Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	0

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors one drain was reconstructed and eight drains were cleansed.

(c) Sanitary Fittings and Conveniences

There is a need in the town for improvement of the existing public conveniences and also for the provision of additional ones.

The construction of new public conveniences at the North end of the Chapel Street car park was approved and it was anticipated that work would commence early in 1973. Consideration was also given for improvements to the Council's other public conveniences.

(d) Refuse Storage and Disposal

Public cleansing was part of the duties of your Surveyor. The Council possessed one refuse collecting vehicle which removed house refuse at weekly intervals. Refuse was disposed of on a refuse dump at Sible Hedingham in the Halstead Rural District.

Consideration should be given to improvements in the Council's refuse collection service by the introduction of a rear of premises disposable sack or plastic bin liner system. The collection of Trade Refuse only on payment of a charge of £2.50 per bin per year was continued and facilities for private persons to deposit refuse at the Council's Tip on the authority of the Engineer and Surveyor free of charge for domestic refuse and on payment of 50p per load for trade refuse were provided.

Six inspections of the refuse dump and 26 inspections regarding refuse accumulations and storage were made. Three informal notices were served regarding provision of dustbins, etc.

There was no evidence of the depositing of poisonous wastes, toxic chemicals, etc., in the District during the year.

8. WATER SUPPLIES

The water supply of the area was generally satisfactory both in respect of quality and quantity. The supply derived from the Colchester and District Water Board was chlorinated but not treated by softening and had no plumbosolvent action. As a routine procedure samples were submitted for bacteriological laboratory examination monthly. Samples for chemical analysis were taken also.

The water consumption in the District from public piped mains supplies was estimated to be 44·45 gallons per head per day by the Colchester and District Water Board Chief Engineer.

During the year 165 premises were connected to the water mains and the following work was carried out by Public Health Inspectors:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies	34
(b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies	0
(c) Informal Notices served re water supplies	4
(d) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table	13

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains	13	13	0
Private Water Mains	0	0	0
Public Wells, etc.	0	0	0
Private Wells, etc.	0	0	0
Totals	13	13	0

(e) Samples of water examined for Chlorine content: 5

A typical Chemical Analysis of the Public Mains Water Supply is given in the following table:—

Examination For	Parts per million	Examination For	Parts per million
Turbidity	Less than 1	Hardness: Carbonate (Temporary)	265
Colour	5	Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	30
Odour	Nil	Nitrate Nitrogen	0·1
pH	7·4	Nitrite Nitrogen	0·01
Free Carbon Dioxide	22	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0·01
Electric Conductivity	680	Albuminoid Nitrogen	0·00
Dissolved Solids Dried at 180°C.	490	Oxygen Absorbed	0·10
Chlorine present as Chloride	76	Residual Chlorine	0·1
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	265	Metals: Iron	0·08
Hardness: Total	295	Zinc	Absent
		Copper	0·03
		Lead, Manganese etc.	Absent
		Fluoride	0·9

Public Swimming Baths

The Council's Public Swimming Baths were put into use at the beginning of April and with the exception of one month were open daily until December.

Numerous complaints regarding ventilation and condensation were received. The two baths attendants terminated their employment which necessitated closure of the baths from the end of June for one month. Erratic operation and breakdown of the automatic filtration and chlorination dosing plant was reported upon and during the colder weather lack of proper ventilation caused excessive condensation resulting in inconvenience to bathers due to water dropping on to clothing.

As a routine procedure samples of the baths water during use were examined for estimation of free and residual chlorine content and pH value, by your Public Health Inspectors, and samples were submitted for laboratory chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

During the open season 35 visits were made. Twenty-seven samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and found to be suitable for bathing purposes. Four samples taken in June, July and November failed to attain a high bacteriological standard.

Twenty-seven samples were also taken for chemical analysis and 5 samples taken in May, June and December failed to attain the high standard of clarity, due partly to iron content, though the turbidity was not excessive.

Twenty-seven samples were also examined for free and residual chlorine and pH value, and 2 were unsatisfactory due to absence of free chlorine.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

(a) Plans

Planning and Building Regulation plans examined regarding public health matters 4

Liaison is most important between Officers dealing with Planning and Building Regulations on the one hand, and Public Health Officers dealing with Health Legislation on the other. It is desirable that plans of new development should be forwarded to the Health Department for scrutiny and certification by Public Health Officers, to ensure that where any proposals conflict with Health Legislation, the attention of developers can be drawn to the modifications necessary. This would avoid works being carried out in accordance with Planning Permissions and Building Regulation Approvals which contravene statutory requirements administered through Public Health Officers, especially at food premises, places of employment, offices, shops, factories, etc. Prior consultation with Public Health Officers is also desirable, especially when Planning Permissions are sought for such projects as intensive livestock husbandry and industrial processes producing air pollution, noxious fumes or waste products, noise, etc.

(b) Local Land Charges

Reports to Clerk of Council on public health aspects of Official Searches in the Local Land Charges Register 492

(c) Nuisances—Effluvia

(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

(d) Nuisances—Keeping of Animals and Poultry

(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

(e) Animal Boarding Establishments

(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

(f) Pet Shops

(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

(g) Waste Food Boiling Premises

(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

(h) Rag Flock Stores

(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

(i) Notifiable Diseases

(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(2)	Premises Disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

(j) Special Reports

No special reports were submitted to the Council by the Public Health Officer during the year.

(k) Training of Public Health Workers

Several students (Public Health Workers, Teachers, etc.) were conducted on inspection visits of places of public health interest throughout the District.

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